

INSULL GAS OFFER RIDICULED — MEANS NO REDUCTION TO SMALL CONSUMER

A long, loud laugh came from the city council chambers yesterday when the aldermen heard of Sam Insull's proposal to reduce the selling price of gas to the people of Chicago.

The aldermen read over Insull's proposal and then said:

Insull's offer is higher for the next five years than the one now in the present enjoined ordinance.

That only the big consumers of gas will benefit.

That the books of the gas company must be thrown open to show the city how much profit the gas company was making along with the value of their property that a gas rate on a fair return for the actual investment the company has made shall be established.

The present gas rate is 80 cents. If Judge Gibbons hadn't enjoined the ordinance it would be 68 cents. The difference between these two figures was impounded by the court and now amounts to \$10,000,000. The company and the city is fighting for this money. And yet the People's Gas Light & Coke Co. has been paying 8 per cent dividends on their capital stock.

Insull recently told the gas committee of the council that his company would reduce the rates providing the gas standard be placed on a heat unit instead of a candle power basis.

Insull's new proposal is 78 cents a thousand for the first 25,000 feet, 70 cents a thousand for the next 25,000, and 50 cents a thousand for all over 50,000. The table slides gently down hill till 1920, when the people will be paying 75 cents for the first 25,000, 65 for the next and 50 cents for all over 50,000. This is the monthly, not the yearly, rate. So if you use more than 25,000 cubic feet of gas a month you might save money.

Aldermen point out this "very material reduction," as Insull called it, amounts to only 2 cents below the present price and will be 5 cents below the present price in 1919-20.

Ald Buck says he is convinced that the company could sell at a much lower rate and still make a profit.

Ald. Lawley, chairman of the gas litigation committee, says city must have inventory of company before making new rate.

Ald Merriam says that only the big consumers of gas will be benefited.

Ald. Kearns says the gas company would be the beneficiary instead of the consumers.

The majority of the aldermen oppose Insull's proposal. And they think that when the gas company is criticized enough they will make another "big" reduction to give the people the idea that they have forced them to come down.

CRITICISE CLUB WHERE 100 WERE POISONED

Yesterday afternoon an employee of the University club came into The Day Book office and charged that the kitchen at the University club is run in a "messy way."

Last night 100 prominent men were stricken ill after eating the bouillion served at a dinner at the club in honor of Archbishop Mundelein, the new Catholic prelate. According to Dr. J. B. Murphy, an investigation disclosed that ptomaine poison developed in the bouillion. All who ate the bouillion were so ill that they had to be assisted to rooms for treatment.

"The University club ought to be exposed for the way it handles things," said the club employee. "Conditions are so bad there that the club has hired as high as 65 to 75 new men in a day."

All the world loves to josh a lover!